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UNCLAS KUWAIT 002954

SIPDIS

NEA/ARP FOR CLAIRE KANESHIRO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [I2](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: MISSING KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION SPARE PARTS

1. After a brief trip into Iraq in June, the GOK believes it has located spare parts belonging to Kuwait Airways which were looted by the former Regime in Baghdad during the occupation of Kuwait. GOK wants to recoup these parts. We received the following Diplomatic note (in Arabic) containing the Kuwaiti request as well as photographs of the equipment and spread sheets of the missing parts and identifying numbers. We will pouch photos and compact disc to NEA/ARP. UNSCR 1483 mandates cooperation in the return of stolen property to Kuwait. Please advise how to reply to the GOK.

2. Begin text of informal Embassy translation of Kuwaiti Diplomatic note:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sends its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in reference to the memorandum of the ministry dated 25 June 2003 which contains a statement about the spare parts that belong to the Kuwait Airways Corporation that were stolen by the previous Iraqi regime during the brutal occupation of the State of Kuwait, and in reference to the agreement that occurred lately between his excellency the Deputy Foreign Minister and his excellency the Charge d'Affaires of your respected embassy on the importance for the Embassy to receive a statement (record) of the spare parts that the Iraqi regime stole along with their serial numbers.

We attach for you a complete and reliable report, which contains complete information that is specific to the spare parts with descriptions and quantity; we also attach to you photographic pictures of the spare parts that we came across lately. Also the Ministry requested in its earlier communique to the respected embassy for it to extend its efforts to those American sides specializing in Iraq to safeguard the (spare parts) and return them by way of the specialized committee at the United Nations.

Therefore this Ministry would be grateful if the Embassy would please communicate to the civilian administration in Iraq (the request) to facilitate the task of the technical team representing the Kuwait Airways Corporation in finding those spare parts belonging to it, and also in addition, to safeguard the (spare parts) until their return by way of the POW committee (sic) and the return of Kuwaiti assets."

END Text.

3. Minimize considered.
JONES